WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Productivity-linked Bonus without any Ceiling to Government Employees

*385. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the ceiling disparity between Railway employees and other Ministries' employees in the award of Poductivity-linked Bonus (PLB);

(b) whether it is a fact that all employees right from the Secretary to the group 'D' employees contribute to be production;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railway employees have a ceiling of Rs. 4500|- whereas other Ministries' employees have a ceiling of Rs. 3500|- for eligibiliy of bonus; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Productivity Linked Bonus for Central Govt. employees was introduced in 1979 for employees of Railways, Telecom, Postal and other Departments, whose productivity could be measured. The scheme for payment of bonus is intended for employees who are directly involved in production and who are low paid, for serving as an incentive for higher production. It is not intended to be paid to employees in higher pay range|management, who may also contribute to production.

The eligibility ceiling for payment of bonus was raised from Rs. 2500|- to Rs. 3500|— for Railway employees in 1986-87 (while it remained at Rs. 2500|.. for employees in other Departments), in view of the fact that separate and distinct PLB schemes are in operation in differnt departments/organisations based on different characteristics/parameters of productivity. The eligibility ceilings were further revised to Rs. 4500|- for Railway employees and Rs. 3500|.. for PLB in other departments after consultation with Staff Side of National Council (JCM) from the year 1992-93.

The conditions of service and nature of work in the Railways is also different from that in other departments.

The employees of Telecom and Posts had claimed parity with Railways in the matter of eligibility ceiling some time back, which was allowed by Central Admn. Tribunal (CAT) in 1991. Government have filed an SLP, which is pending in the Hon. Supreme Court.

Proposal to set up Travel Authority

*386. MAULANA OBAIDULAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a travel authority to improve and coordinate travel facilities available to tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Vostro Accounts Scandal

*387. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 53 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th February, 1995 and state:

(a) what are the names of Indian and Foreign Banks involved in Vostro Account Scandal alongwith the amount involved in each case;

(b) what are the names of the officials who have been charge-sheeted and what is the stage of prosecution in each case; and

(c) whether investigations in the remaining cases have since been completed and if so, the details thereof and if not by when the same are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY):

(a) The names of the Indian and foreign banks inrolved in illegal transactions in Vostro Accounts, as revealed during the first phase of investigation, along with the amounts involved are as under:—

Statement

Name of the bank	Amount involved (Rs. in crores)
1. ANZ Grindlays Bank	66.44
2. Standard Chartered Bank	4.46
3. Indian Overseas Bank	2.00

(b) 37 officers of Indian banks and 43 officers of foreign banks have been issued show cause notices. Sanction for prosecution u/s 56 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 was also issued against the banks and the various officials involved. Two of the charged banks have field writ petitions in the High Court of Bombay and orders staying the prosecution of the parties till such time as the adjudication proceedings are completed have been issued. Directorate of Enforcement has appealed to the Supreme Court against the interim order or the High Court and the Supreme Court in its interim order on 10.2.1995 has directed the High Court of Bombay to complete the hearing at an early date, preferably within three months. As the matter is subjudice, is would not be in public interest to furnish further details.

(c) The second phase of investigations into the Vostro Accounts irregularities was initiated in December, 1994.

Income tax assessees

*6388. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Income Tax assessees as on 31st March, 1995;

(b) how they are classified and their number as individuals, HUF, firms, companies, trusts, etc.; and

(c) what is being done to identify more number of assessees.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) According to figures compiled upto 28.2.95 the total number of assessees during financial year 1994-95 was 103.71 lakhs. This figure does not include 8.24 lakhs of persons who paid presumptive tax under section 115-K of the Income-tax Act, 1961;

(b) the approximate classification of the above assessees according to status is as follows:—

(Figures provisional)

	(In lakhs)
Individuals	84.01
Firms	12.76
HUF	4.25
Companies	1.76
Trusts	0.41
Others (Association of persons, etc.)	0.31
	103.70 lakh